



# HORSE MANAGEMENT

Pony Club is a teaching organization, not just an organization for competition. The purpose of a rally is not competition; it is a life learning experience. Rallies are structured to emphasize teamwork and give everyone a chance to demonstrate what they are learning in riding skills and horse management skills.

Horse Management is the group of people that teach skills that are necessary for the health and safety of the horse and rider. These are skills not only for use at a rally; they are life-long skills that are necessary for surviving in the world beyond horses as well.

The skills taught are those that employers want the most in their employees.

- Time management
- Responsibility
- Teamwork
- Self-confidence and Self-advocacy
- Learning and Teaching
- Caring for and about others
- Work ethic and commitment

Children need a chance to develop these skills and when the parent hovers or takes over, they are limiting the child's chance to advance on their own.

It is important that parents recognize that Pony Club is a volunteer organization and that the officials are other parents, non-professionals, and professionals who are giving their time and knowledge to help the children. Parents should be setting a good example for their children, know and follow the rules, advocate for their children appropriately, and understand that if they do not, what kind of life lessons are they teaching. The Horse Management rulebooks as well as other rulesbook are reviewed and republished every year. Please be sure your child as well as yourself are familiarized with the rulebooks found at <http://www.ponyclub.org/?page=rulebooks>.

Horse management recognizes parental input is important. There are appropriate people to whom issues should be addressed in a thoughtful, polite, and appropriate manner. These are the Horse Management Organizer, Regional Supervisor, and the District Commissioner.